

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2438

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

FUNDS ALLOCATED TO OBSERVATORIES

2438. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has sanctioned adequate funds for the Vainu Bappu Observatory at Kavalur, Vellore and Kodaikanal Solar Observatory and if so, the funds allocated to the two observatories in the last nine years, year-wise;**
- (b) whether the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and the ISRO has taken any efforts to initiate and facilitate space research studies from both the observatories and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to make these two observatories as educational tour destination for school and college students across the country?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) Yes Sir. Department of Science and Technology provides core grant support to Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for maintaining solar observational facilities and carrying out related research activities. The funds are not sanctioned/ allocated separately for the field stations like Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO) at Kavalur and Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO), Kodaikanal.

The details of the total expenditure incurred during the last nine years for both the above field stations are shown below year-wise:

(Rs. In lakhs)

Year	Kodaikanal Solar Observatory	Vainu Bappu Observatory
2014-15	146.37	146.83
2015-16	169.64	154.82
2016-17	141.06	180.87
2017-18	163.64	186.26
2018-19	215.07	289.77
2019-20	318.83	217.70
2020-21	253.08	184.79
2021-22	295.46	246.97
2022-23	382.85	385.38

(b) Yes, Sir. IIA carries out a large number of research studies from both the observatories in collaboration with ISRO. Similarly, the ISRO scientists have also availed the facilities at the VBO, Kavalur for their scientific pursuits.

(c) The Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO) and Kodaikanal Solar Observatory are opened for public visits. School and college students regularly visit these Observatories to get some knowledge about the astronomical research being undertaken at these observatories.

At Kodaikanal, students visit the Museum and the IIA Archives at the library and are taken on a tour of the research telescopes, followed by night sky watching. IIA also organizes Winter and Summer Schools on basic astronomy every year at Kodaikanal for University students.
